~~29.~~ 27 A composition as claimed in claim ~~26~~ 24 in which the particles have an activated micropore system.

~~30.~~ 28 A composition as claimed in claim ~~26~~ 24 in which the particles have a pore area of at least 25 m^2/g in the pore size range of from about ~~20~~ to about 50 Angstroms.

~~31.~~ 29 A composition as claimed in claim ~~26~~ in which the particles have a BET surface area of at least 200 m^2/g.

~~32.~~ 30 A composition as claimed in claim ~~26~~ 24 in which the particles have a BET surface area of at least 300 m^2/g.

~~33.~~ 31 A composition as claimed in claim ~~26~~ 24 in which the particles have a biocide adsorption capacity of at least 10% by weight.

~~34.~~ 32 A composition as claimed in claim 26 in which the particles are constituted by a material selected from a group consisting of amorphous silicas, Y-zeolites, dealuminated Y-zeolites and mixtures of two or more of these.

~~35.~~ 33 A liquid-based medium incorporating the particulate composition as claimed in claim 26.

~~36.~~ 34 A surface coating formulation incorporating the particulate composition as claimed in claim ~~26~~ 24.

~~37.~~ 35 A surface coating formulation as claimed in claim ~~36~~ 34 in the form of a paint or lacquer.

~~38.~~ 36 A surface coating formulation as claimed in claim ~~36~~ 34 in the form of a water-based or organic solvent-based paint.

~~39.~~ 37 A surface cleaning formulation incorporating the particulate composition as claimed in claim ~~26~~ 24.

~~40.~~ 38 A sealant formulation incorporating the particulate composition as claimed in claim ~~26~~ 24.

~~41.~~ 39 A tiling, grouting or cement-based formulation incorporating the particulate composition as claimed in claim ~~26~~ 24.

~~42.~~ 40 A mud drilling formulation incorporating the particulate composition as claimed in claim ~~26~~ 24.

~~43.~~ 41 A method of producing a biocidally-protected formulation comprising one or more components and a biocide, in which the biocide is introduced into the formulation by means of a particulate composition as claimed in claim ~~26~~ 24.

~~44.~~ 42 A method as claimed in claim 43 in which the biocide is selected from isothiazolones, derivatives of isothiazolones and mixtures thereof.

~~45.~~ 43 A method as claimed in claim 43 in which the particles used are effective to reduce degradation of the biocide to such an extent that at least 60% of the biocide is detectable when the biocide-containing particles are subjected to UV exposure and/or thermal ageing for 40 days under the conditions defined hereinbefore.

~~46.~~ 44 A method as claimed in claim 43 in which the particles used are effective to reduce degradation of the biocide to such an extent that at least 80% of the biocide is detectable when the biocide-containing particles are subjected to UV exposure and/or thermal ageing for 40 days under the conditions defined hereinbefore.